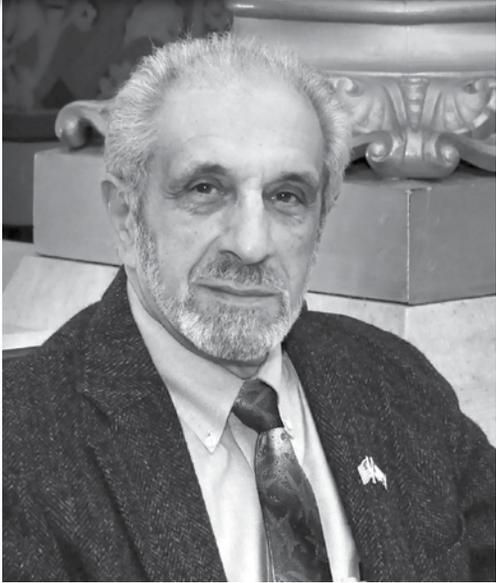


STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LOU ESPOSITO



WEST HAVEN & NEW HAVEN | 116TH HOUSE DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-1902
Lou.Esposito@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Esposito

Dear Neighbor,

Our veterans and their families deserve support and recognition. That's why we prioritized issues important to them, and I wanted to inform you of several items that passed this legislative session.

If you would like more information, or need to contact me about any issue, please feel free to call my office at any time or send me an email.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou Esposito". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

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VETERANS



STOLEN VALOR

It is a crime to lie about receiving a military medal or other Congressional decoration with the intent to fraudulently obtain money, property or other tangible benefits. It is also a crime to wear a military uniform with the intent to commit fraud. Violators can receive a fine between \$500 and \$1,000, up to six months imprisonment, or both.

SECURITY DEPOSIT GUARANTEES FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

The Veterans' Housing Program allows the Commissioner of Housing to prioritize our state's veterans in consideration of persons applying to receive a security deposit guarantee on behalf of the state. An enrollee in the program may receive a security deposit equal to two months' rent.

VETERANS' OPPORTUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

The Veterans' Opportunities Pilot Program will provide funding to hire Homeless Veteran Employment Specialists to assist nonprofit housing agencies with employment and training services for homeless veterans. The job placement specialists will be trained in veterans' issues, case management process, job development, and assessment processes. The Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) will establish a statewide coordinator to manage the network of employment services for veterans. The CTDOL has also applied for a federal grant to hire more staff who will focus on reducing the number of homeless veterans in the state.

HELP FOR JOBLESS VETERANS

This session we worked to streamline the state licensing process for our job-seeking veterans. Connecticut veterans can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. In addition, college credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.

VETERANS HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospitalized veterans may miss out on available financial assistance, simply because they are unaware of all the programs available to them. We made sure that hospitals ask whether a patient is a veteran and investigate available veterans' programs before sending out a bill. It's about protecting those who protect our freedoms.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS

When parents or legal guardians are deployed to combat zones, it is a stressful situation for their children. To help ease some of the stress that students take into the classroom, we will allow any child age 5 to 18 to be granted 10 days of excused absence during the school year if their parent or legal guardian is on active-duty, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from a combat zone or combat support posting.